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AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M) (6 May 68) FOR OT RD 681101

13 May 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery, Period Ending 31 January 1968 (U)

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1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 5b, AR 525-15. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT RD, Operational Reports Branch, within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.

2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

Kenneth G. Wickham

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

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MAY 31 1968

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 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 6TH BATTALION 27TH ARTILLERY
APO 96269

AVGE-XC

31 January 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1968,
(RCS CSFOR-65) UIC: XZGZK (U)

TIRU: Commanding Officer
23d Artillery Group
APO 96269

Commanding General
II Field Force Vietnam Artillery
ATTN: AVFB-FAC
APO 96266

Commanding General
United States Army Vietnam
ATTN: AVHGC-DST
APO 96375

Commander-In-Chief
United States Army Pacific
APO 96550

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development
Department of the Army
Washington, D. C., 20301

SECTION I

SIGNIFICANT HEADQUARTERS OR UNIT ACTIVITIES

1. (C) Administration and Personnel

*Downgraded at 3 year Intervals
Declassified after 18 years
DOD DIR 5200.10*

FOR OTRD
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31 January 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1968,
(RCS CSFOR-65) UIC: XZ8ZXX (U)

a. The 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery remained assigned to the 23d Artillery Group.

b. The S-1 Section conducted an extensive inter and intra battalion infusion program during the reporting period.

c. During this reporting period the personnel strength of the battalion was slightly less than authorized.

d. There are no major personnel shortages in any MOS or grade in the organization.

e. There were six battle casualties (WIA) and two non-battle casualties during this reporting period.

f. Awards and decorations presented to members of this command included eight Bronze Stars (Service), four Air Medals (two w/OIC), one Army Commendation Medal, and six Purple Hearts.

g. There is no significant R&R information.

h. There were no significant morale or disciplinary problems.

i. The Medical Section of the battalion has conducted an extremely effective program of instruction relative to personal hygiene. The improved health of the command has had a good effect on morale.

j. There were no vehicle or aircraft accidents significantly affecting operations.

k. There were no significant changes in educational opportunities.

l. There were no significant religious services or problems.

2. (C) Intelligence

a. The Battalion S-2 Officer continued during this period to maintain close liaison with the Sector S-2 Officer of Binh Long Province and the S-2 Officer of Special Forces Detachment B-33, Company A, 5th Special Forces Group at Hon Quan, RVN. Significant intelligence has been obtained as a result of this close and continuous liaison.

b. During this period one O-1 aircraft has been made available to this organization on a daily basis by the 23d Artillery Group. This aircraft has allowed the Battalion to increase its visual reconnaissance capabilities.

c. The Battalion has continued its program of attacking hard targets and is constantly revising and adding targets to its active target list.

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3. (C) Training

a. The Battalion continues to administer Specialist Tests for gun section personnel, Fire Direction Center personnel and all incoming Company Grade Officers. The Battalion has formed a test team which administers proficiency tests to the firing elements of the Battalion.

b. New in-country arrivals continue to be sent to 1st Infantry Division Jungle Devil School. This course of instruction contributes significantly to the newly arrived soldier's ability to perform security missions in the vicinity of his battery area.

4. (C) Operations.

a. During this reporting period the 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery participated in the following operations:

(1) Operation "Rapid-Fire II", 6 November - 10 November 1967. One platoon Battery "B", 1st Battalion, 64th Artillery was attached to this organization and moved by C-130 aircraft from Bien Hoa, RVN, to Loc Ninh, RVN. This platoon provided direct support for elements of Company "A", 5th Special Forces Group during this operation. It also reinforced fires of 6th Battalion, 15th Artillery which was supporting 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division in the Loc Ninh area. One liaison officer and two forward observers were attached to Sigma Operations, Company "A", 5th Special Forces Group during this operation. The liaison officer functioned as the fire support coordinator and supervised fire planning. The forward observers accompanied maneuver units and adjusted fire as necessary.

(2) Operation "Rapid-Fire IV", 14 November - 27 November 1967. One liaison officer was attached to Detachment B-36, Company "A", 5th Special Forces Group during this operation. The liaison officer functioned as the fire support coordinator and planned fires for elements of the 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery and the 6th Battalion, 15th Artillery who provided fire support for the operation.

(3) During the period 19 November 1967 - 18 December 1967, one platoon Battery "B", 1st Battalion, 64th Artillery was attached to this organization and moved by C-123 aircraft from Bien Hoa to Bu Dop, RVN. This platoon provided direct support for Detachment A241, Company "A", 5th Special Forces Group. One liaison officer and one forward observer were attached to Company "A", 5th Special Forces Group during this period. The liaison officer functioned as the fire support coordinator for the Detachment Commander. The forward observer accompanied maneuver units and adjusted fire as necessary.

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(4) Operation "Yellowstone I", 8 December - 23 December 1967. One forward observer was attached to 1st Battalion, 49th Regiment, ARVN, during this operation. He accompanied this maneuver unit and adjusted fire as necessary. Additionally, he functioned as the fire support coordinator for the force commander and planned fires for the 1st Battalion, 27th Artillery and the 7th Battalion, 11th Artillery.

(5) During the period 11 December - 18 December 1967 one platoon Battery "B", 1st Battalion, 64th Artillery was attached to this organization and moved by C-130 from Bien Hoa, RVN, to Tong Le Chan, NVL. This platoon provided direct support for Detach. ent A334, Company "A", 5th Special Forces Group, conducting search and destroy operations north of Tong Le Chan.

(6) Operation "St Nick", 18 December - 25 December 1967. The attached platoon located at Tong Le Chan was moved by C-130 aircraft from Tong Le Chan to Kinh Thanh, RVN. The platoon provided direct support for elements of Company "A", 5th Special Forces Group.

(7) During this period this organization has conducted a study of fuze action for heavy artillery in double and triple canopy jungle. This study was initiated to increase the effectiveness of this Battalion's artillery support. It required extensive aerial reconnaissance and a limited amount of damage assessment conducted on the ground in the target area in the vicinity of Dong Xoai, RVN.

b. The following number of missions were fired with total amounts of ammunition expended.

UNIT	MISSIONS FIRED	AMMUNITION EXPENDED		
		155M	175M	8"
Battery "A"	4832		5694	2928
Battery "B"	4063		5157	4269
Battery "C"	3126		2945	5127
Battery "B" 1/64 Arty	1243	6951		
<hr/>				
TOTAL:	13,264	6,951	13,796	12,344

5. (C) Logistics

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a. During this reporting period resupply of this organization was accomplished in the following manner:

(1) Battery "A" and Battery "C" were resupplied by convoy.

(2) Battery "B" was resupplied exclusively by aircraft.

(3) Elements of Battery "B", 1st Battalion, 84th Artillery were transported and resupplied exclusively by aircraft.

b. The 610th Maintenance Battalion (DS) assumed responsibility for direct support maintenance of Battery "B" from 185th Maintenance Battalion (DS).

6. (C) Aviation: The following aviation missions, listed by sorties, were flown during this reporting period:

	<u>Cmd & Control</u>	<u>Recon</u>	<u>Arty Adj</u>	<u>PAX</u>	<u>Cargo (tons)</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Rotary Wing	20	34	0	45	1.0	46
Fixed Wing	205	299	30	29	2.0	285
TOTAL:	225	333	30	74	3.0	331

7. (U) Civic Action: The following civic action projects have been accomplished during this reporting period by this organization.

a. The Phuoc Vinh school was continually under repair while elements of the Battalion were located in Phuoc Vihn, RVN.

b. Thanksgiving and Christmas parties were given by all batteries of the Battalion for Vietnamese children.

c. The Battalion medical section has conducted ten MEDCAPS and has attended six hundred and twenty-five patients during this period in the Phuoc Vinh and Quan Loi areas.

d. A Boy Scout troop has been organized in Quan Loi.

8. (C) Communications:

a. During this period five sole user VHF circuits were obtained from the 36th Signal Battalion. These circuits are the primary means of communication used for command and fire control between the Battalion Headquarters and Batteries "B" and "Q".

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b. A new antenna tower was constructed and emplaced by Headquarters Battery which enables the Battalion Headquarters to communicate with all firing batteries of the Battalion on FM radio.

SECTION II

PART I, OBSERVATIONS

1. (U) Personnel and Administration - None.

2. (C) Intelligence:

a. ITEM: Target Acquisition.

(1) DISCUSSION: This organization has been provided with one set of optically stabilized binoculars (Dynalens) for the purpose of evaluating the equipment and establishing techniques for their use. The equipment was found to be of great assistance in target acquisition by aerial observers. Observers were able to observe larger areas, in more detail, in less time, with the Dynalens than with presently issued 7x50 binoculars.

(2) OBSERVATION: This equipment should be made available to all target acquisition agencies utilizing aerial observers.

3. (U) Training and Organization:

a. ITEM: Sound Ranging Method of Locating Observers.

(1) DISCUSSION: This organization tested a sound ranging method of locating observers which was developed by the Gunnery Department, United States Army Artillery and Missile School. The method was found to be effective and fast.

(2) OBSERVATION: Company Grade Artillery Officers should be made aware of the method of locating observers by sound ranging prior to their arrival in RVN.

4. (C) Operations:

a. ITEM: Fuze Selection.

(1) DISCUSSION: This organization has conducted a study of fuze action for heavy artillery in double and triple canopy jungle. This study revealed that fuze quick is not effective against any known targets. That fuze delay while effective against personnel has only limited effect against fortified positions.

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31 January 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1968,
(RCS CSFOR-65)UIC: XZ8ZXX (U)

(2) OBSERVATION: Fuze delay should be used when firing heavy artillery against targets in double and triple canopy jungle.

b. ITEM: Heavy Artillery Utilization.

(1) DISCUSSION: Liaison officers of this organization have experienced difficulty in planning fires for several maneuver units whose commanders were reluctant to utilize heavy artillery. This reluctance was in most cases based on a lack of trust in the accuracy of heavy artillery material rather than a lack of confidence in the firing unit. This difficulty is overcome by persuasive and accurate instruction by knowledgeable personnel.

(2) OBSERVATION: Direct and early coordination must be made with supported maneuver units to insure maximum utilization is made of supporting heavy artillery. This coordination must be made by personnel experienced in the use and control of heavy artillery fires.

5. (C) Logistics:

a. ITEM: Ammunition Storage.

(1) DISCUSSION: Artillery ammunition must be stored in such a manner as to reduce the possibility of destruction by fire or enemy action. Dispersing ammunition in small amounts in a large area and segregating ammunition components reduces the possibility of damage or destruction to ammunition. Proper cover, sand bags and other barrier material, reduces the risk of damage by enemy fires and also serves to protect the ammunition from the weather. Additionally, during the dry season, the areas surrounding storage areas should be cleared of brush.

(2) OBSERVATION: Artillery ammunition should be dispersed within the storage area in small amounts and segregated by components. Cover against enemy fire and weather should be provided for all ammunition. Fire breaks should be utilized in the dry season.

6. (U) Other:

a. ITEM: Firing Battery Communications.

(1) DISCUSSION: This organization has conducted a study of communications within its organic firing batteries and has determined that an effective communications system is needed to insure that fire commands sent by the Fire Direction Center are monitored by all personnel of each gun section. It is necessary for all gun section personnel to monitor all fire commands in order to achieve fast and accurate response. Presently each gun in the organization is equipped with a Control Radio Set C-2328A/GRA 39. This loudspeaker

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31 January 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1968,
(RCS CSFOR-65) UIC: XZ8ZXX (U)

is mounted on the hull of each M107 and M110, to facilitate gun crew members monitoring all fire commands.

(2) OBSERVATION: Communications equipment presently authorized for the firing batteries of this organization is not adequate to meet the requirement of allowing all gun crew members to monitor all fire commands. Engine noise of the M-107 and M-110 overrides the output of the authorized loudspeakers. The vehicle engine must be operated during fire missions in order to prevent the 5 horsepower motor from burning out due to frequent starting and stopping.

SECTION II

PART II, RECOMMENDATIONS

1. (U) Personnel and Administration.
None.
2. (U) Intelligence.
None.
3. (U) Training and Organization.
None.
4. (U) Operations.
None.
5. (U) Logistics.

That self-propelled artillery firing batteries be issued with a public address system which includes one loudspeaker, LS-103/TIQ-2, per gun. Availability of these public address systems would enhance the communications system presently found in these firing batteries by allowing each man in each gun section to monitor fire commands when vehicle engine is being run.

JUGGIE J. O'GRADY
IHC Artillery
Commanding

AVG - C (31 January 1, 68) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1968,
(AOB-CFOR-65) UIC: X282A (U)

HEADQUARTERS, 23D ARTILLERY GROUP, RIO San Francisco 96269, 22 February 1968

To: Commanding General, II Field Force Vietnam Artillery, ATTN: AVF - C,
AFB 96266

Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D.C., 20381

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report for the
period ending 31 January 1968 from Headquarters, 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery.

2. Pertinent comments follow:

a. Reference Section II, Part I, Paragraph 2. Concur. No comment.

b. Reference Section II, Part I, Paragraph 3. Concur. Test re-
sults were sent by this headquarters to II Field Force Vietnam Artillery,
the Gunnery Department at Fort Sill and the Army Concept Team in Vietnam.

c. Reference Section II, Part I, Paragraph 4a. Concur. It was
determined that fuze quick would be effective against unprotected troops
in heavy jungle. Tests will be continued by the heavy artillery units in
the Group. A copy of the preliminary report was sent to II Field Force
Vietnam Artillery.

d. Reference Section II, Part I, Paragraph 4b. Concur. No comment.

e. Reference Section II, Part I, Paragraph 5. Concur. No comment.

f. Reference Section II, Part I, Paragraph 6. Concur. No comment.

g. Reference Section II, Part II, Paragraph 5. Concur. Require-
ment for speaker systems was brought to the attention of II Field Force
Vietnam Artillery. At the present time there is no authorization to draw
this equipment. Guidance is for units to use their own resources.

3. Correct UIC number is MA1SAA.


MAJOR J. KCM
Colonel, Artillery
Commanding

Copy Furnished
HQ, 6th Bn, 27th Arty

AVFB-PAC (31 Jan 68) 2nd Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned (RCS-CSIVR-65)

DA, HQ, II FFORCEV ARMY, APO 96266 5 MAR 1968

THRU: Commanding General, II Field Force Vietnam, APO 96266
Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVFCC-DST,
APO 96375
Commander-In-Chief, United States Army Pacific, ATTN: GFCP-OT,
APO 96558

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of
the Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

1. (U) The quarterly report of the 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery
(WA1SA) adequately reflects the operations and lessons learned during
the reporting period.

2. (U) The following comments pertain to the attached Operational
Reports - Lessons Learned:

a. Reference Section II, Part I, paragraph 2 and paragraph 2a,
1st indorsement. Concur in discussion, however, it would be premature
to make a firm recommendation for basis of issue at this time.

b. Section III, Part I, paragraph 3a and paragraph 2b, 1st in-
dorsement. Concur. Other units of this command also tested the sound
ranging method of locating observers. The results showed that the tech-
nique is simple, quick and location accuracy of 150-200 meters was con-
sistently achieved.

c. Section II, Part I, paragraph 4a and 2c, 1st indorsement.
Concur.

d. Section II, Part I, paragraph 4b and paragraph 2d, 1st in-
dorsement. Concur.

e. Reference Section II, Part I, paragraph 5 and paragraph 2e,
1st indorsement. Concur.

f. Section II, Part I, paragraph 6, Section II, Part II, para-
graph 5 and paragraph 2g, 1st indorsement. Concur. Recommend Self Pro-
pelled artillery units be authorized loud speaker sets, LS-103/TIQ-2,
one per gun, under MTOE. Pending MTOE approval, recommend SP units be
authorized to draw and retain the loud speaker systems under the provi-
sions of USARV Message AVFCA-D-ID 65839, DTG 060151Z Oct 67, subject:
Temporary Loan Procedures.

Raymond P. Murphy
RAYMOND P. MURPHY
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

AVFBC-RE-H (31 Jan 68) 3rd Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending
31 January 1968. (RCS CSFOR-65)

DA, HQ II FFORCEV, APO San Francisco 96266 10 MAR 1968

THRU: Commanding General, US Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC(DST), APO 96375

Commander, US Army Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-OT, APO 96558

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D.C. 20310

1. Subject report is forwarded.
2. This command has reviewed the attached CPLL of the 6th Battalion,
27th Artillery and concurs with it.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

E. M. McGrath
E. M. McGRATH
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

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AVHGC-DST (31 Jan 68) 4th Ind (U) CPT Arnold/twl/LBN 4485
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1968,
(RCS CSFOR-65) UIC: XZ8ZXX (U)

HEADQUARTERS, US ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 4 APR 1968

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT,
APO 96558

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 January 1968 from Headquarters, 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery as indorsed.
2. Pertinent comment follows: Reference item concerning firing battery communications, page 7, paragraph 6a; page 8, paragraph 5; 1st Indorsement, paragraph 2g; and 2d Indorsement, paragraph 2f. Equipment in excess of currently authorized allowances should be requested by MTOE, with full justification, submitted through command channels. USARV has not received an MTOE from the 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery. Since this unit has a standardized MTOE approved, and will be reorganized in mid-1968, any new MTOE submission should be based on the standardized MTOE. Intermediate headquarters should justify applicability for all like units. Temporary loan is not appropriate since the requirement is continuing, and is not an emergency.
3. Correct Unit Identification Code is WA1SAA.
4. A copy of this indorsement will be furnished to the reporting unit through channels.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Copies furnished:
HQ 6th Bn, 27th Arty
HQ II FFORCEV

C. S. Nakatsukasa
C. S. NAKATSUKASA
Captain, AGC
Assistant Adjutant General

GPOP-DT (31 Jan 68) (U) 5th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 6th Bn, 27th Arty for Period Ending
31 January 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 23 APR 1968

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters has evaluated subject report and forwarding indorsements and concurs in the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

CL. SHORTT
CL. SHORTT
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

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